

Farming and Agriculture :: Special Features :: Interesting Observations

B. C. Eggs For Eastern Canada

FEDERAL OFFICIAL ADVISES INCREASED EGG SALE IN EAST.

COURTENAY, March 1.—At a largely-attended meeting of poultry...

to assemble and pack eggs and allow the distributor two cents per dozen...

Touching on the important question of pool financing, Mr. Wilson said that using the product as a basis of bank security had worked well...

"We must not forget, however, that to use the product as a basis of finance, firm sales f. o. b. shipping point must be made or receipts from recognized storage warehouses submitted as bank collateral," he added.

"It is a different matter to sell during November to January when dealers are buying from day to day. Eggs can not then be sold f. o. b. Vancouver and so can not be used as a financing basis. To do the necessary advertising will require capital as well and certainly the development of the export trade can not be accomplished without capital."

METHODS FOLLOWED.

Since British Columbia's egg pool had to function all the year, the logical precedent to follow was to investigate the financing of similar organizations, the speaker referred to the Prince Edward Island Egg Association, in business since 1913...

DEVELOP EXPORT TRADE.

Regarding the development of export trade, Mr. Wilson advised that instead of storing in the flush season to compete with our fresh eggs in the winter months, they should find a sale in foreign and empire markets and would do well to investigate the possibilities in countries whose seasons were opposite to ours...

The Dominion live stock branch had now a sample of B. C. eggs en route to Argentina. Cold storage facilities were available from Vancouver and British Columbia should secure some of the business with that country to which the United States co-operatives on the Pacific coast had shipped 69,000 cases last year.

"More attention should be paid British markets," continued Mr. Wilson. "From the Pacific Coast to Montreal, handling charges and freight amounted to approximately six cents per dozen. Hitherto the matter of price had been largely the dominant factor. But with the going into effect of the British Egg Marketing Act this year, the purpose of which is to recognize quality, there is a possibility that the relation of price and quality of the imported product will be more pronounced, and any development in such direction would promptly react in Canada's favor on account of our government grading."

POOLS AND FINANCING.

On the question of pools, Mr. Wilson said the main cause of a pool's success was service. Whether assembling and packing could be done cheaper than by private enterprise was open to question. For the pool

What would you think of a minister who gave two cents to each member of his congregation to put in the collection plate of the competing church?

THE APIARY

WHY AMERICAN FOULBROOD IS DANGEROUS

(Experimental Farms Note)

American Foulbrood, an infectious disease of bees, can do no harm to man. It can, however, make a considerable hole in the profits of the beekeeper.

To realize why American Foulbrood is dangerous, one should know something of its origin. It is caused by a germ or organism called Bacillus larvae which infects only the young bees. This organism is very insidious in its action, for unknown to the beekeeper it may get a good start in a colony before there is any perceptible evidence of its presence. Again, it may live in a dormant state in unused material for years, and at the first favourable opportunity spring into activity and do much damage.

The great danger of this disease is that it is so easily spread. This may be done in a number of ways.

First there is the robber bee. When nectar is scarce, bees will steal from one another and it is the weak infected colony that is usually the first plundered. In this way, the disease may be spread over a large territory.

Once infected, the strongest colony will be destroyed by this disease unless man intervenes. When the beekeeper becomes aware of its presence and attempts to treat the colony, he runs great risk, for often his efforts to save the colony do more harm than good, and results in infecting other colonies in the vicinity. He would do far better to destroy the infected colony by fire and thus safeguard the clean ones.

Then there is a further danger from infected material. The beekeeper who holds infected material to be treated later would do better to destroy this also, as in number of ways there is a chance of the bees of clean colonies gaining access to it.

Still another danger is that of mistaking American Foulbrood for something else. When in doubt as to the nature of the disease, the beekeeper should send a piece of comb containing infected brood to the Bee Division Experimental Farm, Ottawa (post free) where it will be determined whether or not American Foulbrood is present.

Know What You Sow

(Experimental Farms Note.)

The seed problem is one of the most important matters which confronts the farmer although many fail to realize this fact. Too much thought cannot be devoted to this question, for failure to select properly may easily result in an unprofitable crop rather than a profitable one. The farmer should know what he sows.

In the selection of varieties it is most important that they are adapted to the section in which they are to be grown. For the main crop, it is not safe to take chances with little known sorts, even though they be highly advertised or reported. If it is desired to change the variety or to try out a different crop, any information which is needed regarding them, may usually be obtained from some reliable source at no great distance away.

Among the factors which must be taken into consideration is yielding ability. Other things being equal, a variety or strain which will give a five to ten per cent greater yield is preferable to a lower yielding sort. The matter of purity is important, for not only does this usually cause more uniform performance in the field, but results in a product which better fills the market needs. The germinating capacity must be known, for seeds which have a low or weak germination are practically worthless.

Further, the seed should be large, plump, well-developed and uniform, so that it will germinate quickly and evenly, and produce strong vigorous plants. It should also be free from disease as some of the most serious plant diseases are carried through the seed.

In addition to these, the matter of weeds must be emphasized. Weeds becoming a serious menace and at all times involve much expense in their control, adding much to the cost of producing crops. Too much attention cannot be given to securing seed as free from weeds as possible and time and effort spent toward this end are always a good investment.

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

THE ROAD TO FAILURE

The following ten commandments from the University of Tennessee, if faithfully followed, are guaranteed to put any farmer, young or old, "on the road."

How Not To Succeed

- 1. Grow only one crop. 2. Keep no live stock. 3. Regard chickens and a garden as nuisances. 4. Take everything from the soil and return nothing. 5. Don't stop gullies or grow cover crops—let the top soil wash away, then you will have "bottom" land. 6. Don't plan your farm operations. It's hard work thinking—trust to luck. 7. Regard your woodland as you would a coal mine, cut every tree, sell the timber and wear the cleared land out cultivating it. 8. Hold fast to the idea that the methods of farming employed by your grandfather are good enough for you. 9. Be independent—don't join with your neighbors in any form of co-operation. 10. Mortgage your farm for every dollar it will stand to buy things you would have the cash to buy if you followed a good system of farming.

In a certain particular instance we have followed the first rule with perfect success, as far as the rule is concerned. The policy of this journal is consistently to encourage mixed farming.

Live stock is the life of the farm; there is always the milk cheque, the pork cheque, and the "egg money," coming in, to say nothing of the manure going out.

Chickens promise to be one of our great sources of revenue. For generations looked on as a side line, almost beneath the farmer's notice, they have advanced to the dignity of a specialty. Farmers look at the garden in the same way now, but the time will come when it too will claim attention. "A good garden is half of a man's living."

The fourth rule, I believe, is not practised by our farmers any more. Some of our fathers and grandfathers believed in it and it was found very efficacious in giving the results anticipated. But even our "junior" farmers break this commandment now and use fertilizer and manure.

It is surprising how gullies form in our rolling lands, carrying the fertile soil to the brooks and perhaps ultimately to the sea. Contour ploughing will do much to obviate this. A pamphlet from the Publications Branch, Ottawa, on "The Management of Farm Lands in Eastern Canada,"

gives a chapter to this subject.

A lady said to an English landscape painter who was noted for his brusque manner, "Pray, Mr. Ople, with do you mix your colors with?" "With brains, madam!" was his unexpected reply. And despite the prevailing impression, farming must also be mixed with brains.

No. 7 is, I regret to say, followed in the first part at least, by nearly all farmers. Perhaps it's in the blood. The first settlers could only have a farm by clearing the trees and their descendants have not got clear of the idea. In older lands "they just about worship the trees," as a Prince Edward Island farmer once told me. We are young yet, but in a generation or two, we shall appreciate them as much as other countries do. When we reach that stage our land will truly be the "Garden of the Gulf." England is one great garden as all the world knows, but this is the result of one thousand years of cultivation and care. Look what has been done here in one hundred years! And if we progress to the same extent, we shall excel England, for we possess a finer pastoral scenery, I had almost said, by nature. But I digress.

Grandfather was a good man in his day—the right man in the right place—and honor to him for it. Many a prosperous farmer owes his position to his grandfather, both financially and by heredity. But it is time to say that the world has changed, and only by sutting ourselves to our environment can we survive, say the biologists. Be up to date!

Some military genius—I forget who—said, "Providence is on the side of the big battalions." This is as true commercially as in a military sense. The rapid growth of the co-operative spirit in our midst is one of our most hopeful signs. I remember twenty years ago it was almost unheard of, but now we have an ever-increasing number of Circles and Clubs, which are rapidly improving farming conditions and prices.

WHAT BIRDS DO

It is estimated that 10,000 caterpillars could destroy every blade of grass on one acre of cultivated land. An insect-infested tree may contain 12,000,000 aphids. The bird population of the country has been estimated at from 700 to 1,000 per square mile, and these birds, few enough in number, are our best protection against the insect enemies which they were intended to destroy. The man who kills these insectivorous birds is helping to destroy his own country.

The Farm Home Shelter Belt

(Experimental Farms Note.)

Winter is the season when plans should be made for planting a shelter belt about our farm homes, for at that time the benefits of shelter appeal to us most strongly. When the warm days of spring and summer come and the work of planting trees for shelter should be done, we forget the howling snowstorms, the days when the wind blew a gale from the north-west and the thermometer dropped below zero. We forget, too, the days when we dashed through drifts to get to the stables, and that during those days the stock could not be induced to stay at the water trough long enough to drink. In winter the many discomforts due to lack of shelter appear very real to us. We know that it is the high cold winds that make our winter climate so disagreeable, and that this can be overcome, about our homes at least, by shelter belts. We know also that good shelter would save much fuel, would materially add to our own comfort and to the comfort and welfare of our live stock, and that the planting of a good shelter belt is a paying proposition. But in spring and summer we forget. Therefore let us plan now to start planting a windbreak this coming season.

While a single row of trees will give considerable shelter, the ideal shelter belt, judging from experience at the Dominion Experimental Station at Charlottetown, P. E. I., should be at least one hundred feet wide, should be situated about one hundred yards from the buildings, and should protect them on the west, north and east. In making the first planting, it is advisable to use native spruce set in two rows about eight feet apart, placing the trees six feet apart in the row and arranging them so that each tree in the back row is in line with the space between each two trees of the front row. Small trees

THE WANDERING WATCHMAN

A house agent had a farm on his books which was supposed to be haunted, and to prove rumor wrong he decided to engage a man to stay there for one night.

On the following day he was up early and went to see how the man had fared. But the man was not to be found. On the lawn he discovered the remains of a window, sash and shutters completely wrecked.

Four days later the house agent came across him tramping along a country lane some three miles away.

"Hallo!" he cried. "Where have you been all this time?" The man wiped the perspiration from his brow. "Boss," he replied, "I've been coming back."

Garden Notes

GARDEN INVALUABLE

There will always be many critics who will maintain that, if the labour involved in gardening was valuable at so much an hour, it would be cheaper to buy vegetables and flowers. Such a calculation, however, neglects to take into consideration the exercise and pleasure derived from the growing of vegetables and flowers upon which proper value can be placed. No money could purchase the quality of vegetables grown within a few yards of the kitchen, or the flowers fresh picked from the beds at the door.

SOMETHING NEW

Do not be content with the same flowers and vegetables year after year. Certain locations and soil will suit certain types of plants, but there is no reason why some of the newer sorts should not fit in as well as those already proven. In the flower line, besides such well known sorts as zinnias, marigolds, petunias, and phlox, there are lesser known beauties like calliopsis, godetia, calendula, lupinus, annual larkspur, scabiosa, salpiglossis, California poppies, schizanthus or Butterfly flower, and several others now listed and fully described in the best catalogues. Some of these are worth trying in every garden. Among the vegetables one would do well to experiment with the ones lettuce a new spinach, asparagus, Brussels sprouts, cress, Swiss chard, endive, kohlrabi, vegetable marrow, or some of the herbs.

BEST VEGETABLE VARIETIES

The following list of vegetables suitable for planting in Canada is recommended by the Government authorities at Ottawa: Asparagus—Washington, satisfactory from the standpoint of disease resistance and a good cropper; Beans—Pencil Pod Wax, Round Pod Kidney Wax, Stringless Green Pod, with Kentucky Green Pod and Kentucky Wonder Wax as pole sorts; Beet—Flat Egyptian Early and Detroit Dark Red later; Cabbage—Golden Acre, as a round-headed first early, followed by Copenhagen Market and Enkhuizen Glory as mid-season, with short stem Danish Ballhead for winter storage. Cauliflower—Early Snowball and Early Dwarf Erfurt. Carrots—Chantenay and Danvers. Corn—of the early varieties Cory, Golden Bantam, Early Malcolm and Crosby are recommended, with Stowell's Evergreen for later use. Cucumbers—Improved White Spine and Dukes Perfect. Celery—Golden Plume or Wonderful and White Plume which is good for winter keeping. Lettuce—Grand Rapids, is one of the most popular leaf varieties, with New York and Hanson where a head sort is wanted. Muskmelons—Montreal Market, Rockyford, and Hackensack are all good varieties, as well as Heats of Gold, Miller's Cream or Osage, Bender Surprise and Emerald Gem Onion—Yellow Globe Danvers, Red Wetherfield, prize Taker Yellow Globe and Red Globe Peas—Thomas Lexington, Blue Bantam, Gradus, Little Marvel, Laxton Progress, and of course American Wonder. Parsnip—Hollow Crown. Radish—Scarlet Turnip White Tip, French Breakfast, and Scarlet Globe. Spinach—Bloomsdale and New Zealand. Swiss Chard—this vegetable is used as a spinach while the fleshy stem may be cooked as asparagus. It is available in White or Red stem. Tomatoes—Canadian as first early followed by chalks Early Jewel, Living-tones, Globe, John Baer, Bonny Best is one of the best forcing sorts. It is well to remember that the quality of the seeds is even more important than variety, and that vegetables to have the highest quality must be grown quickly. To get this result, beds must be thoroughly worked before and after seeding and a quickly available fertilizer, such as nitrate of soda, should be applied every two weeks during the early part of the season. The easiest way to apply this is to dissolve a tablespoon in a gallon of water, and soak the ground about the plants with a watering can.

MARCH GARDENING

This is the season when catalogues of seeds and flowers rival in interest the month's best novel or the brightest magazines. The finest gardens are produced when the snow is deep and the thermometer dips eastward. Of course they are in the imagination, the triumph of optimism over experience, hope fostered by catalogues filled with beautiful photographs of magnificent flowers and gorgeous vegetables. Peruse those delightful pages, gaze upon these pictures of perfect products of Mother Earth, and forgotten are the weeds of yesterday, forgotten the bugs and slugs and assorted pests which prey upon the amateur gardener, far in the dim past the perils of drought and early frost and excessive rain which stalk in the path of the devotee of growing things.

The arm-chair gardener never is disillusioned. He is never disappointed when the giant double turns out to be a dwarf single, if it turns out to be anything at all. While the fire sparkles and the kettle sings he surrounds himself with a thousand stately plants, from the aster and the aquilegia (the latter seeming to be a fashionable development of our old and humble friend the columbine) to the verbasicum and the zinnia. It's a long road and profusely illustrated with glorious specimens which tempt the purse and spur on to greater effort the neophyte. Who can resist the temptation of trying to grow a flower with a resounding name like salpiglossis or orobus vernus or opibium angustifolium? The hollyhock, the modest pansy, the Canterbury bell, dome in colors on glazed paper with appropriate reading matter, assumes the complexion of new and thrilling experience—particularly when the snow over the garden plot is three feet deep and the coming of Spring a matter of faith.

FUR FARMING IN SWITZERLAND

(J. C. MACGILLIVRAY, CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER)

ROTTERDAM, March 1, 1929.—The breeding of silver foxes and other fur-bearing animals is a Canadian industry which is well adapted to Switzerland, and it has already secured a firm foothold with a total of twenty farms housing over 1,000 silver foxes in addition to blue foxes, mink, raccoon, skunk and opossum and other small animals.

Climatically and geographically, Switzerland is an excellent position as a fur-bearing country. Almost every altitude and range of temperature can be had, while it is surrounded by countries all of which are good markets for pelts. The beginning of the industry only goes back five years, at which time a few pairs of breeders were imported from Alaska. The pioneers were enthusiasts, however, and since then rapid strides have been made, and those engaged in the industry are hopeful that Switzerland may be to Europe what Prince Edward Island is to Canada as regards the fox industry.

Switzerland has now reached such a point of development that it will from now on be not only a market but also a competitor. Swiss breeders state that from the present season's litters they have twenty or thirty pairs available for export.

The first Swiss exhibition of fur-bearing animals was held at Zurich in November, 1928, and its promoters believe that it was entirely successful. Its object was to popularize animal raising, and also to convince the public of the good quality of pelts which can be raised in their own country. It is reported that the prices asked for silver foxes ran from \$1,000 to \$1,600 per pair; blue foxes from

\$480 to \$800 a pair; mink (according to origin) \$240 to \$400 per pair; and raccoons (according to the colour of the fur) from \$400 to \$600 per pair.

For the purpose of furthering the interests of the industry in general the Swiss breeders have formed the Swiss Union of Fur-bearing Animal Breeders, the address is Stapferstrasse 16, Zurich, and the secretary is the professor of animal husbandry in the University of Zurich. This association keeps a herdbook in which animals are registered. It also sets different standards to which they must conform, and has undertaken to see that no inferior animals are introduced into the Swiss industry or sold; and ingeneral its function and endeavour is to maintain the breeding of fur-bearing animals on a high plane and to ensure that buyers get only the best. It is also its intention in the near future to begin the publication of a periodical dealing with the breeding animals from the Swiss point of view.

While the Swiss industry has grown and foundation stock for new establishments will to a certain extent be purchased locally, Switzerland must still remain one of Canada's best markets in Europe and warrants the closest attention. A certain amount of new blood will at all times be necessary, and there are also buyers who will prefer to make their initial purchases abroad.

A list of the names and addresses of fur-bearing animals farms in Switzerland has been supplied to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, and a copy may be obtained by those interested in quoting file 11192.

Illustrated Lectures Popular

(Experimental Farms Note.)

A number of sets of excellent lantern slides have been prepared by the Dominion Experimental Farms on matters pertaining to Poultry Husbandry, Planting and Care of the Home Grounds, Origin and Selection of Varieties of Grains, and Selection of Live Stock for Breeding Purposes. These slides are proving very helpful and popular where shown at agricultural and horticultural meetings. At

tendances of from 400 to as high as 750 having been recorded at a number of places. An explanatory manuscript accompanies the slides which may be read as they are projected on the screen. The slides are loaned without rental charge to agricultural and horticultural organizations, schools, churches, women's institutes, etc., and are obtainable upon application to the Division of Extension and Publicity, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

80 English Boys Sail For Canada

To take up farming in this Country. Many callings represented in the Group.

LONDON, March 1.—The proverbial butcher and the baker are included in the list of occupations followed by eighty boys who have just sailed for Canada, under the auspices of the British Immigration and Colonization Association and the Colonization Department of the Canadian National Railways. Of the total group, there are two parties, one on board the Doric, White Star Line, and the other on the Cameronia, Cunard line, both bound for Halifax.

There is no record of a candle stick maker amongst the boys, but there is a candy maker, a plumber, a former bus conductor and a golf caddy. All these boys are headed for farms despite the fact that only three of them engaged in agricultural work previous to sailing. Of the eighty boys now on the seas only six were out of work when they elected to try their fortunes in Canada.

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